

The Planning Commission Meeting was called to order by Chair Katy Ross at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive Suite 150, City of North Oaks. Also present were Commissioners Nancy Reid, Joyce Yoshimura-Rank, Bob Turkington, and Paul Lesieur. Commissioner Kara Ries was absent. City Administrator Mike Robertson, Administrative Assistant Mary Belden, Septic Inspector Brian Humpal, Assistant Planner Jim Robinson and Videographer Maureen Anderson were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the Minutes from the September 29, 2016, Planning Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank and passed unanimously.

New Business

Variance #16 -04, Spring Marsh Lane, Charles Meyer ISTS

Septic Inspector Humpal said that the proposed variance is to encroach ten feet into the north property line thirty foot setback. He is in agreement that this is the best place for a new septic system and stated that it would be an improvement to the local ground and surface waters. Commissioner Reid asked where the existing system was and Humpal explained. Commissioner Turkington asked about proximity to the lake, and Humpal said that the location was a big improvement and would be positive for the lake. **Commissioner Reid made a motion to recommend approval with two conditions, that the work be done within 180 days and according to the plan submitted. Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank seconded and it passed unanimously.**

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-NOHOA-Re-aiming Hockey Lights at West Rec

Administrator Robertson said that NOHOA had received a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in 2014 as part of the construction of the new West Rec building and he provided a copy of that permit for the Planning Commission. He said that the hockey lights had originally been installed without a permit and that as part of the CUP the City Council required NOHOA to change the lights from the original configuration due to the number of complaints it had received. He said that NOHOA was asking for permission to re-aim the hockey lights back to their original configuration. He noted that six of the twenty-eight conditions in the permit had to do with addressing the complaints about the lights.

Robertson recommended that NOHOA's request be turned down. He said that the original configuration of the lights had already been rejected by the City Council in 2014 due to the number of complaints about it. Robertson stated that, though it was not requested by NOHOA, a memo from their lighting consultant, Scott Hutchins of Wenck Associates, suggested a compromise whereby the lights would be adjusted from the current configuration but not back to the original configuration. Robertson said his recommendation was that the lights could be readjusted slightly but with representatives located in the surrounding neighborhoods to be certain there is no spill over light on to adjacent properties. This could improve the lighting for hockey and skating use.

Kimberly Murray, the director of NOHOA spoke and said that NOHOA would like to re-aim the lights back to their original position due to safety concerns expressed by hockey parents and coaches due to uneven lighting on the rinks. Scott Coyle, NOHOA Board member, stated that he has received numerous complaints from residents on the safety of the rinks and the lights. It is his recommendation that the lights go back to the original positions. It is his opinion that the rinks are not currently safe.

Chair Ross opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. William Jungbauer of 10 Columbine Lane said he lives the closest to the rinks. He said that the spillover light was better after the lights were re-aimed but that one of the lights shines directly into his home and he wants the city statutes preventing spillover light to be followed. Scott Hutchins, Wenck Associates, said that he doesn't think that there is any direct glare and that what people are seeing is the "bounce" off the lighting standards. He also thinks that because there are no streetlights that the lights stand out more. Robertson asked if the reflectors could be adjusted to reduce this glare and Hutchins said no.

Commissioner Lesieur stated that if there were more poles for the lights it might solve the problem. Scott Coyle, 2 Red Pine Road, said he believes more poles would help but thinks there would still be complaints. He asked the Planning Commission to take into account all the people who use the rinks and not just one side of the argument. Robertson read a letter from Peter Ploumidis of 16 Blue Jay Lane in which he said he thought that the glare from the lights posed more of a safety concern for residents and drivers than for the hockey players and that he does not think that any of the facts have changed in the last eighteen months to undo the previous compromise reached regarding the lights. Hearing no further comments, Chair Ross closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m.

Commissioner Turkington asked when are the lights on. Director Murray stated that there are timers on the lights and they're on generally from about 5:00-10:00 p.m., mid-December through mid-February. Chair Ross asked if the ice is booked all the time, and Director Murray said that it varies depending upon the weather and demand. Commissioner Turkington asked if NOHOA would consider planting bigger trees around the rink to reduce glare to the surrounding properties. Director Murray said the NOHOA board would have to explore the costs. Chair Ross asked what the next step is. Administrator Robertson stated that he maintains his original recommendation and suggested making the light adjustments while all the parties are present to give input.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to recommend to the City Council that all parties, including adjacent residents, meet on site at a designated time and date to adjust the lights before December 10, and also to consider planting additional trees to reduce glare. Commissioner Lesieur seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hutchins recommended we do this when there is some snow cover. Chair Ross recommended that we notify the residents in the area so they can participate.

Comprehensive Plan Update-Land Use. Assistant Planner Robinson of Sambatek reviewed Chapter 2, the Land Use section of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank had a question about parks. Administrator Robertson asked the Planning Commission to think about whether they wanted to consider future park requirements for the remaining areas of the City that will be developed.

Planning Commissioner Terms. Administrator Robertson reported that Commissioner Hara has resigned from the Planning Commission. Commissioners Ries and Reid's terms expire at the end of this year and they have both indicated they would like to be re-appointed. Commissioners Turkington

and Yoshimura-Rank's terms expire at the end of 2017 and Commissioner Lesieur's term expires at the end of 2018.

City Update.

Chair Ross updated Commissioners on the changes in the recycling program and noted that the City had received a grant for the purchase of new recycling bins. Administrator Robertson updated Commissioners on the number of rental homes in the community.

Next Meeting

The next Planning Commission Meeting is Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 7 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive.

Adjournment

On motion made by Commissioner Reid, seconded by Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Katy Ross

Mary Belden
Recording Secretary